



THANK YOU ANDY WARHOL

Catherine Johnson

RYAN MCGINNESS

ARTIST

Andy Warhol was the most successful anti-artist of all time. An artist's greatest contribution is in the form of permission. These permissions are given to society, and more importantly, they are passed on to future artists. Artists' barriers are society's expectations based on historical precedence. We prefer our art to look like art and our artists to behave like artists. Andy courageously ignored those expectations.

Andy's permissions were given through his gestures. His contributions are not his actual artworks, but the fact that he chose to make them — the fact that he chose to do the things he did under the guise of an artist. Andy was culture's wildly gesturing court jester. Thank you, Andy, for doing what you weren't supposed to do.

His success and influence and prices are the result of carefully considered and calculated decisions. There is nothing surprising there.

I don't think most people realize how much he was hated and disrespected while he was alive.

I remember when and where I was when I heard the news about Andy's passing. I was at a school-sponsored getaway called "Super Thinkers" for high school students (basically nerd camp), and I was shocked, stunned, and frozen in the way only a precocious, purple-glasses-wearing, budding-artist teenager can be.

I'm most influenced by the works in which he first decided to paint clean, hard-edged, mechanical flat lines, starting with the Coca-Cola bottles. The shift in Andy's technique in portraying this subject matter is huge.

If Andy were alive today:

He would be immersed in the world of online social networking.

He would be representing porn stars (in art and business).

He would have his own signature line of anything.

He would have created a museum of boring things.

He would be selling an Andy Warhol art-making kit.

He would be selling internships in the Factory to socialites.

He would have created the Andy Warhol NYC tour bus.

He would host an art contest in which everybody wins.

He would have his own art fair.

He would have produced and sold the Andy Warhol Halloween costume.

He would have his own record label.

He would have bought the naming rights to distant stars and resold them.

Think of something you think an artist should or would not do, and Andy would be doing that.